

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 16-18 are withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1-15 presently stand rejected.

Claim Objections:

Claims 1-15 are objected to because of informalities. Applicants amend the claims to remove any ambiguities.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 9-21164 to Idota.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the following remarks.

According to claim 1, the deodorizing means is **entirely located** in an essentially **dry area** of the odor trap. With this feature, a benefit is realized in that the deodorizing means is completely disposed in the dry area and does not contact any liquid in the trap, thus, prolonging the life of the deodorizing means.

On the other hand, JP '164 discloses an odor trap, which clearly does not have a deodorizing means in an essentially dry area. The deodorizing means (urolith preventing agent) 50 is housed in a chemical housing area 44. As indicated in Enclosure A (attached herewith), this chemical housing area 44 is open in order to receive flushing water. This is mandatory because the urolith preventing agent 50 must be partly dissolved with each flushing. The urolith

preventing agent 50 **cannot be located in a dry area** as in the present invention because then it would not be dissolved and therefore urolith disposals could not be prevented.

As stated in the English Abstract, “[n]umerous holes (48) are formed along different directions” on the side wall of the chemical storage part (see Enclosure A) and the advantage of JP ‘164 is that it “[e]nables urine and water passing over [the] chemical agent to pass through holes on side walls of [the] storage part.” This is illustrated in FIG. 3, for example, where the water enters the storage part 44, which is open, flows over the deodorizer (50) and through the holes (48) in direction of the arrows.

Thus, JP ‘164 fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature of having a deodorizing means which is entirely located in an essentially dry area of the odor trap. Moreover, one would not have been motivated to modify JP ‘164 to have this feature, since JP ‘164 **teaches away** from having the deodorizer in a dry area, i.e., JP ‘164 is specifically directed to enabling urine and water to pass over the chemical agent (50).

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 is not anticipated by JP ‘164 and Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the prior art rejection.

The remaining rejections are directed to the dependent claims 2-14. These claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1, by virtue of their dependency therefrom.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure A

(4)

FIG. 9-21164

